



FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

EASTSIDE FIRE & RESCUE

Proudly Serving – Carnation, Issaquah, North Bend,
Sammamish, Preston, May Valley, Tiger Mt. and Wilderness Rim

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Be Safe in the Water

Leading up to the long Independence Day weekend, Eastside Fire & Rescue officials are urging everyone to be extremely careful when heading out on the water.

Pine Lake, Beaver Lake, Rattlesnake Lake, Lake Joy, Lake Kathleen, Lake McDonald, and Lake Sammamish, along with the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries attract lots of recreationalists, especially this time of year. When temperatures are in the 70s, we see people coming out to enjoy the water, but when we get above 80 degrees, there's a community that pops up overnight on the banks and in the water, according to Fire Chief Lee Soptich.

Lakes, rivers and the Puget Sound waters can all be extremely cold this time of year. Rivers are still hovering below 50 degrees, while temperatures on Puget Sound and area lakes are not much warmer.

Alcohol, drugs, lack of flotation devices, inattention to conditions, unsupervised children, and poor swimmers, are common elements for injuries and drowning each year. Just like hiking in the wilderness, it's important to have a plan and share it with someone who can check up on you after time has passed when you should be out of the water.

For details about river safety, visit www.kingcounty.gov/riversafety. For more information on water safety and drowning prevention, visit the King County Water Safety website, www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/injury/water.

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